



## SERC Meeting

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

Lincoln, Nebraska

1:00 PM CST

### I. **Call to Order**, Introduction of Members

A copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Statute was available for review on the registration table.

Tim Hofbauer, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

Member		Affiliation	Present
Sheri	Blaha	County Elected Official	
Steven	Danon	Small Business	X
Keith	Deiml	Education	
Don	Eisenhauer	Agribusiness	
Joe	Francis	Department of Environmental Quality	X
		Labor	
Rick	Grauerholz	City Government	X
John	Grimes	Chair, Industry	
Jim	Heine	State Fire Marshal	X
Tim	Hofbauer	Vice Chair, Local Emergency Management	X
Larry	Johnson	Trucking Association	
Mark	Lohnes	NDEQ SARA Title III	X
Judd	Lyons	ARNG	
Mark	Maday	Transportation	
Sharon	Medcalf	Community Health	X
Dana	Miller	Fire	X
Tonya	Ngotel	SERC Coordinator	X
Kimberly	Plouzek	Environmental Protection	X
Tom	Sands	Department of Roads	
Thomas	Schwarten	State Patrol	
Sue	Semerena	Health and Human Services	
Mark	Meints	NDOR Alt	X
Bryan	Tuma	NE Emergency Management	X

*Others in attendance: Mark DeKraai & Quinn Lewandowski UNL Public Policy Center, Nikki Weber Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and Terri Blunk, EPA Region 7.*

### II. **Approval of the Agenda** for October 06, 2015

Sharon Medcalf made a motion to approve the agenda for October 06, 2015. Bryan Tuma seconded this motion. The motion passed by consensus.

### **III. Approval of the Minutes** from July 07, 2015 meeting.

Dana Miller made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the July 7, 2015. Sharon Medcalf seconded this motion; the motion passed by consensus.

### **IV. New Business**

#### **a. 2016 SERC Calendar**

The next SERC meeting will be moved to January 5, 2016. The 2016 LEPC Conference will be held in conjunction with the Hazmat Symposium and Hazmat Challenge in April. The 2016 SERC retreat will be held on July 12<sup>th</sup>. The 2016 October meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. The 2016 January and October meetings will be available through video conferencing as well.

#### **b. Nebraska Safety Council Conference**

On October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Steve and Jon will be hosting a SERC booth at the NSC Conference.

### **V. Old Business**

#### **a. LEPC Membership Approval (Vote)**

27 applications were received. Rick Grauerholz made a motion to approve all 27 LEPC membership applications. Joe Francis seconded this motion, the motion passed by consensus.

#### **b. SERC Membership Committee**

##### **i. Status Report**

Gary Gandara (Labor) has retired, and SERC is actively searching for someone to fill the Labor spot. Keith Deiml (Education) and Kim Plouzek (Environmental Protection) have reapplied to be reappointed by the Governor and reconfirmed by the legislature.

#### **c. 2015 Regional LEPC Conference Review**

The 2015 Regional LEPC Conference was held on August 6-8 in Nebraska City at the Lied Lodge and Conference Center. A BBQ event was hosted on Friday, August 7 at the Nebraska City Fire Hall, and there were multiple events that went on during the conference. Frank Patterson, incident commander during the West, TX fertilizer explosion, was the keynote speaker and provided a good story tied into great information.

##### **i. Nebraska also had several LEPCs win awards at the Regional Conference, those honored include:**

- Large LEPC - Homestead LEPC (Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Thayer, and Fillmore Counties)
- Mid-sized LEPC – Howard County LEPC
- Small LEPC – Otoe County LEPC
- Industry – Union Pacific and Omaha Public Power District

#### **d. 2016 Nebraska LEPC Conference/Hazmat Symposium/Challenge**

The 2016 Nebraska LEPC Conference, Hazmat Symposium, and Hazmat Challenge will be combined into a three day event that will be held in Kearney, NE on April 14<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup>. The LEPC Conference will take place Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup>, the Hazmat Symposium on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Hazmat challenge will be held the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>. The training component will be hosted at the Kearney Fire Department Training Center.

**e. SERC Strategic Plan Review and Update**

**i. LEPC Survey**

The LEPC survey has been developed, finalized, and has been distributed to all Nebraska LEPC members. The response rate has been low since the survey's launch, but ongoing outreach efforts are being made to collect more responses. The survey will be kept open at least until the end of October.

**ii. Funding LEPCs**

The subcommittee has contacted surrounding states' LEPCs to collect information on their programs. From that information we have been able to determine which states charge fees, what fees are based on, where does the money from fees go, what agency houses the LEPC, what kind of facilities they have, etc.

All research is done: the state agencies will review the results and discuss next steps.

**iii. Speakers Bureau**

The SERC has hosted multiple booths at a variety of different conferences. Promotional materials on the SERC and LEPC have been distributed in the form of: interactive CD, flyers on hazardous chemical, brochures, and the LEPC guide.

**iv. Commodity Flow Study**

The Winnebago tribe's Commodity Flow Study's grant was approved. The Winnebago tribe's Commodity Flow study will hopefully complement the SERC's commodity flow study.

**f. Emergency Order - Bakken Crude Oil Transport**

No update.

**g. Other**

No report.

**VI. Report from NEMA**

- a. TERREX 2015** – The annual statewide terrorism exercise featured a series of tabletop exercises focused on Bakken Crude Oil; the exercises were held in Winnebago, Fremont, and Lincoln. Community planning, communication, and availability of resources were the most common types of issues among all of the cities that participated in the exercise. Dave will be compiling a lessons learned report. The format of this training was more time consuming to administer, but was very useful to engage the local officials and first responders.

NEMA had a difficult time trying to get the local entities to take ownership to get the local players involved in the exercise. Working with the railroad and the different regions schedules was a little difficult. There were funds left over to do another full scale exercise in the next month, most likely to be hosted in the Auburn area.

**VII. Report from NDEQ/EPA**

**NDEQ** – There was the avian influenza outbreak in the upper part of state that effected one operation; NEMA was stationed in Wakefield for an extended period of time. The Department of

Agriculture did a great job of handling the incident, and the operation was very cooperative which helped amplify effectiveness. Animal mortality management practices planned and determined years ago ended up being very beneficial. Burial on-site was anticipated in the original plans but composting was most viable option. The quick composting helped keep the dead birds from lying around and decomposing while continuing to shed the virus. An Avian Influenza workshop has held and six states from around the region were invited, which provided an excellent opportunity for states to come together and share ideas, experiences, and planning for future possible Avian Influenza outbreaks.

**EPA** – With OSHA’s reinterpretation of “retail” many Ag Ammonia facilities may soon be covered by should be checking if they meet the new standard by OSHA’s process safety management. Ammonia used for refrigeration guidance has been updated as well. Reorganization of EPA Region 7’s EPCRA non-313 program is currently occurring. Terri will still remain the point of contact for Nebraska.

## **VIII. Public Forum/Presentation**

### **a. SERC Roles – Center for Preparedness Education – Sharon Medcalf**

Thanks to the cooperation of UNMC and Creighton in the early 2000’s, Sharon was able to setup the Center for Preparedness Education. Over the years the Center has grown to house eight specialized employees. The Center played a big role in UNMC being ready to handle the West Africa Ebola outbreak. It started with the smallpox prevent vaccination program in 2005 in which the smallpox vaccine would be given to possible first responders. This vaccination movement helped lead to the discussion for containment for first cases of major disease/sickness. A biocontainment unit was developed using an unused top floor. The unit uses negative pressure, autoclaving, and everything possible to keep contagions from escaping. Staff in the biocontainment unit had been trained on handling highly contagious patients for once a month for ten years, and were ready to serve and answer the call when Ebola happened. The Center continues to grow and adapt to changing times, and has been hosting more webinar trainings to adapt to new challenges.

### **b. National Hazmat Challenge in New Mexico - This was the second year that Nebraska has sent a team to the National Hazmat Challenge. The team took seventh place out of eleven teams. They drove down to the challenge this year so they were able to utilize their own gear, and get in some good training.**

## **IX. Adjournment**

Sharon Medcalf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bryan Tuma seconded this motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Next meeting is January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 1:00pm in Lincoln, Nebraska.